

NEW CLAIMS

Group E

33. An apparatus for inserting a flexible liner into a packaging container, 1
comprising: 2
a liner supply for supplying a flexible liner to be inserted into a container; 3
at least one liner engagement head for controllably engaging a flexible liner 4
supplied by the liner supply and positioning the liner for insertion into a container 5
positioned in a container receiving area; 6
at least one insertion assembly which is movable between retracted and extended 7
positions, said at least one insertion assembly being movable into an extended 8
position to insert a liner into a container positioned in the container receiving area; 9
wherein said at least one liner engagement head is movable into engagement 10
with a liner held by the liner supply while the at least one insertion assembly is in an 11
extended position inserting another liner into a container positioned in the container 12
receiving area. 13
34. An apparatus according to claim 33 and wherein said at least one liner 1
engagement head includes at least one movable liner engagement head that is 2
mounted to move and open a liner by separating two opposing leaves of the liner. 3
35. An apparatus according to claim 33 and wherein the liner supply is a 1
dispenser that supplies liners from a roll. 2
36. An apparatus according to claim 33 and wherein said at least one liner 1
engagement head includes at least one vacuum engagement head that applies 2
vacuum when engaging a liner. 3

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37. An apparatus according to claim 33 and wherein: 1
said at least one liner engagement head includes at least one vacuum 2
engagement head that applies vacuum when engaging a liner; 3
said at least one liner engagement head includes at least one movable liner 4
engagement head that is mounted to move and open a liner by separating two 5
opposing leaves of the liner. 6

38. An apparatus according to claim 33 and wherein said at least one liner 1
engagement head includes a plurality of vacuum engagement heads that apply 2
vacuum when engaging a liner. 3

39. An apparatus according to claim 33 and wherein said at least one liner 1
engagement head includes at least two opposing liner engagement heads that are 2
in opposed relationship and engage opposing leaves of a liner. 3

40. An apparatus according to claim 33 and wherein: 1
said at least one liner engagement head includes at least two opposing liner 2
engagement heads that are in opposed relationship and engage opposing leaves of 3
a liner; 4
said at least one liner engagement head also including at least one vacuum 5
engagement head that applies vacuum when engaging a liner. 6

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41. An apparatus according to claim 33 and wherein: 1
- said at least one liner engagement head includes at least two pair of opposing 2
- liner engagement heads, each pair of opposing liner engagement heads having 3
- opposing liner engagement heads that are in opposed relationship and engage 4
- opposing leaves of a liner; 5
- said at least two pair of opposing liner engagement heads being mounted with 6
- at least one pair of opposing liner engagement heads along different sides of the at 7
- least one insertion assembly; 8
- at least one engagement head of each of said pair of opposing liner engagement 9
- heads being mounted for movement and being movable along engagement head 10
- paths which pass along sides of the at least one insertion assembly while the at least 11
- one insertion assembly is in said extended position. 12
42. An apparatus according to claim 33 and wherein: 1
- said at least one liner engagement head includes at least two pair of opposing 2
- liner engagement heads, each pair of opposing liner engagement heads having 3
- opposing liner engagement heads that are in opposed relationship and engage 4
- opposing leaves of a liner; 5
- said at least two pair of opposing liner engagement heads being mounted with 6
- at least one pair of opposing liner engagement heads along different sides of the at 7
- least one insertion assembly; 8
- at least one engagement head of each of said pair of opposing liner engagement 9
- heads being mounted for movement and being movable along engagement head 10
- paths which pass along sides of the at least one insertion assembly while the at least 11
- one insertion assembly is in said extended position; 12
- said at least one liner engagement head also including at least one vacuum 13
- engagement head that applies vacuum when engaging a liner. 14

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43. An apparatus according to claim 33 and wherein said at least one liner
engagement head includes at least one pivotal engagement head which is pivotally
movable to engage with a liner.

44. An apparatus according to claim 33 and wherein:
said at least one liner engagement head includes at least one pivotal engagement
head which is pivotally movable to engage with a liner;
said at least one liner engagement head includes at least one linear engagement
head which is linearly movable to engage with a liner.

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45. An apparatus according to claim 33 and wherein: 1
- said at least one liner engagement head includes at least two pair of opposing 2
- liner engagement heads, each pair of opposing liner engagement heads having 3
- opposing liner engagement heads that are in opposed relationship and engage 4
- opposing leaves of a liner; 5
- said at least two pair of opposing liner engagement heads being mounted with 6
- at least one pair of opposing liner engagement heads along different sides of the at 7
- least one insertion assembly; 8
- at least one engagement head of each of said pair of opposing liner engagement 9
- heads being mounted for movement and being movable along engagement head 10
- paths which pass along sides of the at least one insertion assembly while the at least 11
- one insertion assembly is in said extended position; 12
- said at least one liner engagement head also including at least one vacuum 13
- engagement head that applies vacuum when engaging a liner; 14
- said at least one liner engagement head includes at least one pivotal engagement 15
- head which is pivotally movable to engage with a liner; 16
- said at least one liner engagement head includes at least one linear engagement 17
- head which is linearly movable to engage with a liner. 18

Group F

46. An apparatus for inserting a flexible liner into a packaging container, 1
comprising: 2
a frame; 3
a liner supply for supplying a flexible liner to be inserted into a container; 4
at least one liner engagement head mounted for movement relative to said frame 5
for controllably engaging a flexible liner supplied by the liner supply and positioning 6
the liner for insertion into a container positioned in a container receiving area; 7
at least one engagement head operator for moving said at least one liner 8
engagement head between an engagement position and a ready position in which a 9
liner is ready for insertion of the liner into a container positioned in the container 10
receiving area; 11
at least one insertion assembly mounted for movement relative to said frame and 12
which is movable between retracted and extended positions, said at least one 13
insertion assembly being movable into an extended position to insert a liner into a 14
container positioned in the container receiving area; 15
at least one insertion assembly operator for moving the at least one insertion 16
assembly between the retracted and extended positions relative to the frame; 17
at least one cuffing assembly mounted for movement relative to the frame for 18
cuffing a portion of a liner about a container in which the liner has been inserted by 19
said at least one insertion assembly; 20
at least one cuffing assembly operator for moving the at least one cuffing 21
assembly relative to the frame. 22

47. An apparatus according to claim 46 and wherein said at least one cuffing 1
assembly, said at least one insertion assembly, and said at least one liner 2
engagement head are independently movable relative to the frame. 3

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48. An apparatus according to claim 46 and wherein said at least one liner engagement head is movable into engagement with a liner held by the liner supply while the at least one insertion assembly is in an extended position inserting another liner into a container positioned in the container receiving area.

49. An apparatus according to claim 46 and wherein:
said at least one cuffing assembly, said at least one insertion assembly, and said at least one liner engagement head are independently movable relative to the frame;
wherein said at least one liner engagement head is movable into engagement with a liner held by the liner supply while the at least one insertion assembly is in an extended position inserting another liner into a container positioned in the container receiving area.

50. An apparatus according to claim 46 and wherein said at least one liner engagement head includes at least one movable liner engagement head that is mounted to move and open a liner by separating two opposing leaves of the liner.

51. An apparatus according to claim 46 and wherein the liner supply is a dispenser that supplies liners from a roll.

52. An apparatus according to claim 46 and wherein said at least one liner engagement head includes at least one vacuum engagement head that applies vacuum when engaging a liner.

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53. An apparatus according to claim 46 and wherein: 1
said at least one liner engagement head includes at least one vacuum 2
engagement head that applies vacuum when engaging a liner; 3
said at least one liner engagement head includes at least one movable liner 4
engagement head that is mounted to move and open a liner by separating two 5
opposing leaves of the liner. 6

54. An apparatus according to claim 46 and wherein said at least one liner 1
engagement head includes a plurality of vacuum engagement heads that apply 2
vacuum when engaging a liner. 3

55. An apparatus according to claim 46 and wherein said at least one liner 1
engagement head includes at least two opposing liner engagement heads that are 2
in opposed relationship and engage opposing leaves of a liner. 3

56. An apparatus according to claim 46 and wherein: 1
said at least one liner engagement head includes at least two opposing liner 2
engagement heads that are in opposed relationship and engage opposing leaves of 3
a liner; 4
said at least one liner engagement head also including at least one vacuum 5
engagement head that applies vacuum when engaging a liner. 6

57. An apparatus according to claim 46 and wherein: 1
said at least one liner engagement head includes at least two pair of opposing 2
liner engagement heads, each pair of opposing liner engagement heads having 3
opposing liner engagement heads that are in opposed relationship and engage 4
opposing leaves of a liner; 5

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said at least two pair of opposing liner engagement heads being mounted with
at least one pair of opposing liner engagement heads along different sides of the at
least one insertion assembly;

at least one engagement head of each of said pair of opposing liner engagement
heads being mounted for movement and being movable along engagement head
paths which pass along sides of the at least one insertion assembly while the at least
one insertion assembly is in said extended position.

58. An apparatus according to claim 46 and wherein:

said at least one liner engagement head includes at least two pair of opposing
liner engagement heads, each pair of opposing liner engagement heads having
opposing liner engagement heads that are in opposed relationship and engage
opposing leaves of a liner;

said at least two pair of opposing liner engagement heads being mounted with
at least one pair of opposing liner engagement heads along different sides of the at
least one insertion assembly;

at least one engagement head of each of said pair of opposing liner engagement
heads being mounted for movement and being movable along engagement head
paths which pass along sides of the at least one insertion assembly while the at least
one insertion assembly is in said extended position;

said at least one liner engagement head also including at least one vacuum
engagement head that applies vacuum when engaging a liner.

59. An apparatus according to claim 46 and wherein said at least one liner
engagement head includes at least one pivotal engagement head which is pivotally
movable to engage with a liner.

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60. An apparatus according to claim 46 and wherein: 1
said at least one liner engagement head includes at least one pivotal engagement 2
head which is pivotally movable to engage with a liner; 3
said at least one liner engagement head includes at least one linear engagement 4
head which is linearly movable to engage with a liner. 5

61. An apparatus according to claim 46 and wherein: 1
said at least one liner engagement head includes at least two pair of opposing 2
liner engagement heads, each pair of opposing liner engagement heads having 3
opposing liner engagement heads that are in opposed relationship and engage 4
opposing leaves of a liner; 5
said at least two pair of opposing liner engagement heads being mounted with 6
at least one pair of opposing liner engagement heads along different sides of the at 7
least one insertion assembly; 8
at least one engagement head of each of said pair of opposing liner engagement 9
heads being mounted for movement and being movable along engagement head 10
paths which pass along sides of the at least one insertion assembly while the at least 11
one insertion assembly is in said extended position; 12
said at least one liner engagement head also including at least one vacuum 13
engagement head that applies vacuum when engaging a liner; 14
said at least one liner engagement head includes at least one pivotal engagement 15
head which is pivotally movable to engage with a liner; 16
said at least one liner engagement head includes at least one linear engagement 17
head which is linearly movable to engage with a liner. 18

Group G

62. An apparatus for inserting a flexible liner into a packaging container, 1
comprising: 2
a liner supply for supplying a flexible liner to be inserted into a container; 3
at least one liner engagement head for controllably engaging a flexible liner 4
supplied by the liner supply and positioning the liner for insertion into a container 5
positioned in a container receiving area; 6
at least one insertion assembly which is movable between retracted and extended 7
positions, said at least one insertion assembly being movable into an extended 8
position to insert a liner into a container positioned in the container receiving area; 9
at least one cuffing assembly for cuffing a portion of the liner over edges of the 10
container; 11
wherein said at least one liner engagement head is movable into engagement 12
with a liner held by the liner supply while the at least one insertion assembly is in an 13
extended position inserting another liner into a container positioned in the container 14
receiving area. 15

63. An apparatus according to claim 62 and wherein said at least one cuffing 1
assembly is movable and operated independent from said at least one insertion 2
assembly. 3

64. An apparatus according to claim 62 and wherein said at least one liner 1
engagement head includes at least one movable liner engagement head that is 2
mounted to move and open a liner by separating two opposing leaves of the liner. 3

Group G

65. An apparatus according to claim 62 and wherein the liner supply is a dispenser that supplies liners from a roll. 1
2

66. An apparatus according to claim 62 and wherein said at least one liner engagement head includes at least one vacuum engagement head that applies vacuum when engaging a liner. 1
2
3

67. An apparatus according to claim 62 and wherein: 1
said at least one liner engagement head includes at least one vacuum engagement head that applies vacuum when engaging a liner; 2
said at least one liner engagement head includes at least one movable liner engagement head that is mounted to move and open a liner by separating two opposing leaves of the liner. 3
4
5
6

68. An apparatus according to claim 62 and wherein said at least one liner engagement head includes a plurality of vacuum engagement heads that apply vacuum when engaging a liner. 1
2
3

69. An apparatus according to claim 62 and wherein said at least one liner engagement head includes at least two opposing liner engagement heads that are in opposed relationship and engage opposing leaves of a liner. 1
2
3

Group G

70. An apparatus according to claim 62 and wherein: 1
said at least one liner engagement head includes at least two opposing liner 2
engagement heads that are in opposed relationship and engage opposing leaves of 3
a liner; 4
said at least one liner engagement head also including at least one vacuum 5
engagement head that applies vacuum when engaging a liner. 6

71. An apparatus according to claim 62 and wherein: 1
said at least one liner engagement head includes at least two pair of opposing 2
liner engagement heads, each pair of opposing liner engagement heads having 3
opposing liner engagement heads that are in opposed relationship and engage 4
opposing leaves of a liner; 5
said at least two pair of opposing liner engagement heads being mounted with 6
at least one pair of opposing liner engagement heads along different sides of the at 7
least one insertion assembly; 8
at least one engagement head of each of said pair of opposing liner engagement 9
heads being mounted for movement and being movable along engagement head 10
paths which pass along sides of the at least one insertion assembly while the at least 11
one insertion assembly is in said extended position. 12

Group G

72. An apparatus according to claim 62 and wherein: 1
said at least one liner engagement head includes at least two pair of opposing 2
liner engagement heads, each pair of opposing liner engagement heads having 3
opposing liner engagement heads that are in opposed relationship and engage 4
opposing leaves of a liner; 5
said at least two pair of opposing liner engagement heads being mounted with 6
at least one pair of opposing liner engagement heads along different sides of the at 7
least one insertion assembly; 8
at least one engagement head of each of said pair of opposing liner engagement 9
heads being mounted for movement and being movable along engagement head 10
paths which pass along sides of the at least one insertion assembly while the at least 11
one insertion assembly is in said extended position; 12
said at least one liner engagement head also including at least one vacuum 13
engagement head that applies vacuum when engaging a liner. 14

73. An apparatus according to claim 62 and wherein said at least one liner 1
engagement head includes at least one pivotal engagement head which is pivotally 2
movable to engage with a liner. 3

74. An apparatus according to claim 62 and wherein: 1
said at least one liner engagement head includes at least one pivotal engagement 2
head which is pivotally movable to engage with a liner; 3
said at least one liner engagement head includes at least one linear engagement 4
head which is linearly movable to engage with a liner. 5

Group G

75. An apparatus according to claim 62 and wherein: 1
- said at least one liner engagement head includes at least two pair of opposing 2
- liner engagement heads, each pair of opposing liner engagement heads having 3
- opposing liner engagement heads that are in opposed relationship and engage 4
- opposing leaves of a liner; 5
- said at least two pair of opposing liner engagement heads being mounted with 6
- at least one pair of opposing liner engagement heads along different sides of the at 7
- least one insertion assembly; 8
- at least one engagement head of each of said pair of opposing liner engagement 9
- heads being mounted for movement and being movable along engagement head 10
- paths which pass along sides of the at least one insertion assembly while the at least 11
- one insertion assembly is in said extended position; 12
- said at least one liner engagement head also including at least one vacuum 13
- engagement head that applies vacuum when engaging a liner; 14
- said at least one liner engagement head includes at least one pivotal engagement 15
- head which is pivotally movable to engage with a liner; 16
- said at least one liner engagement head includes at least one linear engagement 17
- head which is linearly movable to engage with a liner. 18

Group H

76. A method for inserting flexible liners into packaging containers, 1
comprising: 2
supplying a container to a container receiving area associated with a liner 3
insertion apparatus; 4
dispensing a first liner to a dispensed position of the liner insertion apparatus; 5
engaging the first liner using at least one movable engagement head; 6
positioning the first liner using said at least one movable engagement head to 7
prepare the first liner for insertion; 8
inserting the first liner into the container by extending at least one insertion 9
assembly of the liner insertion apparatus against the first liner and into the container, 10
positioned in the container receiving area; 11
dispensing a second liner to a dispensed position of the liner insertion apparatus; 12
moving said at least one movable engagement head into engagement with the 13
second liner while the at least one insertion assembly is in an extended position. 14
associated with said inserting step. 15

77. A method according to claim 76 and wherein said step of engaging the 1
first liner includes applying vacuum to said first liner. 2

78. A method according to claim 76: 1
and wherein said step of engaging the first liner includes applying vacuum to said 2
first liner; 3
and further comprising engaging the second liner with said at least one movable 4
engagement head, and wherein said step of engaging the second liner includes 5
applying vacuum to said second liner. 6

Group H

79. A method according to claim 76 and further comprising: 1
retracting said at least one insertion assembly; 2
removing said container with first liner inserted therein from the container 3
receiving area; 4
supplying a second container to the container receiving area; 5
positioning the second liner using said at least one movable engagement head 6
to prepare the second liner for insertion; 7
inserting the second liner into the second container by extending said at least one 8
insertion assembly against the second liner and into the second container positioned 9
in the container receiving area. 10

80. A method according to claim 76 and wherein said step of engaging the 1
first liner includes engaging the first liner with at least two movable engagement 2
heads which are moved along opposing sides of the at least one insertion assembly. 3

81. A method according to claim 76 and wherein said step of engaging the 1
first liner includes engaging the first liner with at least two opposing engagement 2
heads that engage opposing leaves of the liner. 3

82. A method according to claim 76: 1
and wherein said step of engaging the first liner includes engaging the first liner 2
with at least two opposing engagement heads that engage opposing leaves of the 3
liner; 4
and further comprising opening the first liner by separating opposing leaves of 5
the liner by moving at least one of said opposing engagement heads. 6

Group H

83. A method according to claim 76 and wherein: 1
said step of engaging the first liner includes engaging the first liner with at least 2
two movable engagement heads which are moved along opposing sides of the at 3
least one insertion assembly; 4

said step of engaging the first liner includes engaging the first liner with at least 5
two opposing engagement heads that engage opposing leaves of the liner. 6

84. A method according to claim 76 and wherein: 1
said step of engaging the first liner includes engaging the first liner with at least 2
two movable engagement heads which are moved along opposing sides of the at 3
least one insertion assembly; 4

said step of engaging the first liner includes engaging the first liner with at least 5
two opposing engagement heads that engage opposing leaves of the liner; 6

and further comprising opening the first liner by separating opposing leaves of 7
the liner by moving at least one of said opposing engagement heads. 8

85. A method according to claim 76 and further comprising cuffing the first 1
liner about portions of the container by moving at least one cuffing assembly against 2
the first liner as the first liner is in juxtaposition with the container. 3

86. A method according to claim 76 and further comprising: 1
engaging the first liner using at least one cuffing assembly which assists in 2
positioning the first liner for insertion; 3

cuffing the first liner about portions of the container by moving at least one 4
cuffing assembly against the first liner as the first liner is in juxtaposition with the 5
container. 6

Group H

87. A method according to claim 76 and wherein said step of engaging the first liner includes engaging the first liner with at least two opposing engagement heads that engage opposing leaves of the liner;

and further comprising:

opening the first liner by separating opposing leaves of the liner by moving at least one of said opposing engagement heads;

engaging the first liner using at least one cuffing assembly which assists in keeping the first liner in an open condition;

cuffing the first liner about portions of the container by moving said at least one cuffing assembly against the first liner as the first liner is in juxtaposition with the container.

88. A method according to claim 76 and wherein said step of engaging the first liner includes engaging the first liner with at least two opposing engagement heads that engage opposing leaves of the liner;

and further comprising:

opening the first liner by separating opposing leaves of the liner by moving at least one of said opposing engagement heads;

engaging the first liner by rotating at least one cuffing assembly which engages the first liner and assists in keeping the first liner in an open condition;

cuffing the first liner about portions of the container by moving said at least one cuffing assembly relative to the container and against the first liner as the first liner is in juxtaposition with the container.

Group J

89. A method for inserting a flexible liners into packaging containers, 1
comprising: 2
supplying a first container to a container receiving area associated with a liner 3
insertion apparatus; 4
dispensing a first liner to a dispensed position of the liner insertion apparatus; 5
engaging the first liner using at least one movable engagement head; 6
opening the first liner using said at least one movable engagement head to open 7
and position the first liner for insertion; 8
inserting the first liner into the first container by extending at least one insertion 9
assembly into the first liner and into the first container positioned in the container 10
receiving area; 11
dispensing a second liner to a dispensed position of the liner insertion apparatus; 12
moving said at least one movable engagement head into engagement with the 13
second liner while the insertion assembly is still in an extended position relative to 14
said first liner; 15
engaging the second liner using the at least one movable engagement head; 16
retracting said at least one insertion assembly; 17
removing said first container with first liner inserted therein from the container 18
receiving area; 19
supplying a second container in the container receiving area; 20
opening the second liner using said at least one movable engagement head to 21
open and position the second liner for insertion; 22
inserting the second liner into the container by extending said at least one 23
insertion assembly into the second liner and into the second container positioned in 24
the container receiving area. 25

Group J

90. A method according to claim 89 and wherein said steps of engaging the first liner and engaging the second liner include applying vacuum to said first liner and to said second liner, respectively.

91. A method according to claim 89 and wherein said steps of engaging the first liner and engaging the second liner include applying vacuum to said first liner and to said second liner so as to apply vacuum to opposing leaves of the liners, respectively.

92. A method according to claim 89 and wherein said at least one movable engagement head includes at least two movable engagement heads which move along opposing sides of the at least one insertion assembly.

93. A method according to claim 89 and wherein:
said steps of engaging the first and second liners include engaging the first and second liners with at least two movable engagement heads which are moved along opposing sides of the at least one insertion assembly;
said steps of engaging the first and second liners include engaging the first and second liners with at least two opposing engagement heads that engage opposing leaves of the liner.

94. A method according to claim 89 and further comprising cuffing the first liner about portions of the container by moving at least one cuffing assembly against the first liner as the first liner is in juxtaposition with the container.

Group J

95. A method according to claim 89 and further comprising: 1
- engaging the first liner using at least one cuffing assembly which assists in 2
- positioning the first liner for insertion; 3
- cuffing the first liner about portions of the container by moving at least one 4
- cuffing assembly against the first liner as the first liner is in juxtaposition with the 5
- container. 6

Group K

96. A method for inserting and cuffing flexible liners onto packaging containers, comprising:
- supplying a first container to a container receiving area associated with a liner insertion apparatus;
 - dispensing a first liner to a dispensed position of the liner insertion apparatus;
 - engaging the first liner using at least one movable engagement head;
 - opening the first liner using said at least one movable engagement head to open and position the first liner for insertion;
 - inserting the first liner into the first container by extending at least one insertion assembly into the first liner and into the first container positioned in the container receiving area;
 - dispensing a second liner to a dispensed position of the liner insertion apparatus;
 - moving said at least one movable engagement head into engagement with the second liner while the insertion assembly is still in an extended position associated with said inserting step;
 - cuffing the first liner about portions of the first container by moving a cuffing assembly against the first liner as the first liner is in juxtaposition with the container;
 - engaging the second liner using the at least one movable engagement head;
 - retracting said at least one insertion assembly;
 - removing said first container with first liner inserted therein from the container receiving area;
 - positioning a second container in the container receiving area;
 - opening the second liner using said at least one movable engagement head to open and position the second liner for insertion;
 - inserting the second liner into the container by extending at least one insertion assembly into the second liner and into the second container positioned in the container receiving area;

Group K

cuffing the second liner about portions of the second container by moving said 28
cuffing assembly against the second liner as the second liner is in juxtaposition with 29
the container. 30

97. A method according to claim 96 and wherein said engaging steps include 1
applying vacuum to said first liner and to said second liner, respectively. 2

98. A method according to claim 96 and wherein said steps of engaging the 1
first liner and engaging the second liner include applying vacuum to said first liner 2
and to said second liner in a manner which applies vacuum to opposing leaves of the 3
liners. 4

99. A method according to claim 96 and wherein said at least one movable 1
engagement head includes at least two movable engagement heads which move 2
along opposing sides of the at least one insertion assembly. 3

100. A method according to claim 96 and wherein: 1
said steps of engaging the first and second liners include engaging the first and 2
second liners with at least two movable engagement heads which are moved along 3
opposing sides of the at least one insertion assembly; 4
said steps of engaging the first and second liners include engaging the first and 5
second liners with at least two opposing engagement heads that engage opposing 6
leaves of the liner. 7

Group L

101. A method for inserting and cuffing a flexible liner onto a packaging container, comprising:

supplying a container to a container receiving area associated with a liner insertion apparatus;

dispensing a liner to a dispensed position of the liner insertion apparatus;

engaging the liner using at least one movable engagement head mounted for movement relative to a frame of the liner insertion apparatus;

positioning the liner using said at least one movable engagement head to position the liner in preparation for insertion;

inserting the liner into the container by extending at least one insertion assembly into the liner and into the container positioned in the container receiving area, said at least one insertion assembly being mounted for movement relative to the frame;

cuffing the liner about portions of the container by moving a cuffing assembly against the liner as the liner is in juxtaposition with the container, said cuffing assembly moving relative to the frame independent from said at least one insertion assembly.

102. A method according to claim 101 and wherein said engaging step includes applying a vacuum to said liner.

103. A method according to claim 101 and wherein said at least one movable engagement head includes at least two movable engagement heads which move along opposing sides of the at least one insertion assembly.

Group L

104. A method according to claim 101 and wherein said step of engaging the
liner includes engaging the liner with at least two opposing engagement heads that
engage opposing leaves of the liner.

105. A method according to claim 101:
and wherein said step of engaging the liner includes engaging the liner with at
least two opposing engagement heads that engage opposing leaves of the liner;
and further comprising opening the liner by separating opposing leaves of the
liner by moving at least one of said opposing engagement heads.

106. A method according to claim 101 and wherein:
said step of engaging the liner includes engaging the liner with at least two
movable engagement heads which are moved along opposing sides of the at least
one insertion assembly;
said step of engaging the liner includes engaging the liner with at least two
opposing engagement heads that engage opposing leaves of the liner.